

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings formalize FIGS. 1-4. These sheets, which include FIGS. 1-4, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1-4.

Attachment: 4 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30-62 are pending. Claims 1-29 have been canceled. New claims 30-62 have been added. No new matter has been added by the new claims.

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13, 15, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,647,061 to Panusopone et al. ("Panusopone"). Claims 5-7, 12, 14, 16-18, 24, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Panusopone in view of Efficient MPEG-4/H/263 video transcoder for interoperability of heterogeneous multimedia networks by S. Dogan, A.H. Sadka and A.M. Kondo.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

New independent claims 30 and 45 have been added to more clearly recite embodiments of the present invention. As amended, the claims are in condition for allowance.

For example, claim 30 recites a variable length decoder having "a first output providing motion vector information" and a variable length encoder coupled to the variable length decoder and having "a first input adapted to receive the motion vector information," among other elements. Panusopone does not teach or suggest at least these elements in the manner claimed.

Referring to both FIGS. 4A/B and 5A/B of Panusopone, the output of the variable length decoder 405 is connected to MV decoder 425, not the variable length encoder 370. Thus, in contrast with the claimed embodiment, Panusopone does not teach or suggest a variable length decoder having a first output providing motion vector information and a variable length encoder having a first input adapted to receive the motion vector information. For at least these reasons, claim 30 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 31-44, which depend from claim 30, are in condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 30, as well as for the additional elements they recite.

Additionally, claim 45 recites a conversion unit coupled to the variable length decoder and having "a processing unit adapted to provide image information associated with a second macroblock as a function of the image information associated with the first macroblock

independent of the plurality of first motion vectors associated with the first macroblock," among other elements. Panusopone does not teach or suggest at least these elements in the manner claimed.

Referring to FIG. 4A/5B of Panusopone, motion vector information is combined with image information in adder 435 prior to being passed to FIG. 4B/5B. Moreover, subtractor 445 in FIG. 4B/5B combines motion vector information from motion compensation block 440 with image information from buffer 450/spatial scaling block 540 prior to being passed to DCT 455. For at least these reasons, claim 45 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 46-62, which depend from claim 45, are in condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 45, as well as for the additional elements they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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